

Not too many years ago several institutions and places of business in Lindsay depended on the railway employees and railway patrons for money to pay taxes and buy shoes for the family. With as many as two or three dozen trains being made up in Lindsay, or passing through the Town, this meant a livelihood for various types of business.

Away back in railway history the large brick building at the corner of Glenelg Street and Victoria Avenue was a hotel run by a man named McCarty and later on it became a boarding house run by a kindly mannered woman, a Mrs. Brown. As a matter of fact the first railway station in the South Ward was located a few rods west of the hotel. Later the hotel building became the home for children under the care of the Children's Aid Society.

The mention of boarding houses was brought to conversation a few days ago when alterations started on the big brick house at the corner of William and Russell streets. Again the word railway is used for at one time the sign in front bore the name Coatsworth Inn, a lodging house where meals were served to railway lodgers and to the general public. The proprietor was Fred Coatsworth, a short little man, who appeared to be well fed and very well groomed. He was first known as a cook and then a bar tender at the Hotel Benson. Coatsworth Inn was a popular eating place for many people.

Turning back the pages of history a few years previous, the building was the original home of Dr. Poole.

Immediately north, the home of Midtown Furniture, was probably erected as a stable, office and dwelling by a man named Wes. Fanning, a citizen widely known for his interest in good show horses. Fanning was a lover of light horses and he was a showman

and exhibited his horses in many a Fall Fair. He also experimented a bit with race horses and he was his own driver. Many first prize ribbons decorated the stalls and office in the Fanning barn, which at times came under the more fanciful name of Repository.

With the passing of this lover of good horses the premises on William Street became the property of W. H. Rodd and this gentleman was one of the first to enter the automobile tire business in a big way. Billy Rodd sold the business to employee Elgin Douglas, and Mr. Douglas carried on successfully for many years before retiring from active business.

Recently the present owner of Midtown Furniture, Mr. Orville McLean, has made a fine improvement to the corner property by installing a new front and show room.

Few readers will recall the name of P. Palmer Burrows, M.D., who lived one door north of the Fanning barn. He was well known and largely because of his interest in municipal affairs. Apparently he never sought a seat on the Town Council but he was blessed with a good pen, a bottle of ink and a good vocabulary when he placed his critical letters regarding town affairs in the Daily Post. P. Palmer Burrows was better known than most members of the Council and he always signed his name to his letters.

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